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Letter dated 16 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions of my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the press statement issued by the Hon. Amama Mbabazi, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (Regional Cooperation), Chairman of the Political Committee on the Implementation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement, on behalf of the Committee at the meeting of the Security Council held on 16 June 2000 (see annex).

I should be grateful if this letter together with its annex are issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Prof. **Semakula Kiwanuka**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 16 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Political Committee of the Implementation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement

Press statement

1. At the invitation of the United Nations Security Council, the Political Committee on the Implementation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement on the Democratic Republic of the Congo met in joint session with the Security Council in New York from 15 to 16 June 2000. The meeting reviewed the implementation of the Ceasefire Agreement, with particular emphasis on:

- Cessation of hostilities;
- Conditions for the deployment of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC);
- Disarmament, demobilization, resettlement and reintegration of members of armed groups;
- The humanitarian situation, including the release of prisoners of war; and
- Inter-Congolese political negotiations (National Dialogue).

2. The Political Committee reaffirmed the commitment of the parties to the Agreement as the only viable means to finding a peaceful and sustainable solution to the problem of the Congo. To this end, the Committee informed the Security Council that although the Agreement has suffered violations, it has generally held.

3. With regard to the cessation of hostilities, the Political Committee briefed the Security Council on the measures taken to address ceasefire violations. Among these are the adoption of the Kampala Disengagement and Redeployment Plan and the drawing up of its sub-plans for area to area, which will be the basis for actual disengagement.

4. The Committee regretted the recent fighting in Kisangani between Rwandan and Ugandan forces and briefed the Security Council on the steps taken by the two countries to bring the situation back to normalcy. In this regard, the representatives of Rwanda and Uganda confirmed that the fighting had stopped and that the withdrawal of their forces from Kisangani has commenced with effect from Friday, 16 June 2000, in accordance with the Agreement reached between the two countries with assistance of MONUC. The non-State signatories to the Agreement undertook to respect the demilitarization of Kisangani by keeping their forces in areas outside a 100-kilometre radius of the city. The withdrawal will be completed within one week.

5. On the question of conditions for the deployment of MONUC, the Political Committee reaffirmed the assurances for the security, protection and freedom of movement of MONUC personnel and therefore called upon the Security Council to expedite the deployment as this would enhance the security situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, thereby accelerating the pace of the implementation of the Ceasefire Agreement.

6. The Political Committee informed the Security Council of the adoption during its recent meeting in Lusaka of mechanisms for the disarmament, demobilization, resettlement and reintegration of members of all armed groups.

7. Regarding the release and exchange of prisoners of war (POWs), the Political Committee announced that all the parties have complied with the requirements of the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and that the release and exchange of POWs commenced on 16 June 2000 when 181 POWs were exchanged today, involving Congolese, Namibian, Rwandan, and Zimbabwean POWs.

8. On the National Dialogue, the Political Committee informed the Security Council of the efforts of the Facilitator to start the inter-Congolese political negotiations, including the recent preparatory meeting in Cotonou. The Committee regretted that not all the parties attended the meeting and in this regard called upon all the Congolese to honour their obligations under the Agreement.

9. The Political Committee appealed to the Security Council, and to the international community at large, to provide the necessary and adequate resources to the Facilitator of the inter-Congolese political negotiations and to the Joint Military Commission to enable them to discharge the important tasks assigned to them under the Ceasefire Agreement.

10. The Political Committee expressed its appreciation to the Security Council for convening the second joint meeting and looked forward to the continuation of these consultations on the peace process for the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

New York, 16 June 2000.